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Commissioner Blatchford declares success for capital projects in Delta

(Delta Junction) In Delta Junction today, Commissioner Edgar Blatchford will visit the capital projects built with money administered by the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. He is slated to meet with representatives from Delta Junction Chamber of commerce, business and civic leaders, including City Administrator Pete Hallgren, and is the feature speaker at the Delta High School Graduation.

Delta Junction is one of the fastest growing areas in the State, and is the recipient of about \$25 million from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) most of which has been used to help build infrastructure needed to mitigate the impacts of residents brought in by the U.S. Missile Defense System program.

The Department of Commerce has been administering the money to the community for the last few years. The money has been used to purchase much needed fire protection and ambulance equipment for the city and the Deltana District, and to build a host of projects including a library, fire hall, and landfill. An elementary school is in the construction phase and Commissioner Blatchford says the area is now poised to handle growth. "Economic development is fostered when infrastructure supports growth—the region is now in the best possible position to capitalize on its potential," said Blatchford.

Later today, Blatchford will encourage the 44 graduating seniors to stay in Alaska for their education and, if they choose to leave, to return to Delta Junction where opportunities for careers are growing. "There are many projects going on today, and more slated for the future, that will bring job opportunities," Blatchford's prepared remarks reflect. "The Pogo Mine, Missile Defense, agriculture opportunities, not to mention possible Railroad and Gas Pipeline prospects."

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